## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph on page 12, line 14 through page 13, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Because receipt of requests are the trigger for the commencement of the routine illustrated in Fig. 7, neither the number of occasions in a given time window in which the VPMS routine is run, nor the timing of their commencement can be known in advance. Additionally, as illustrated in Fig. 7, it is possible for two (or indeed more, although only two are illustrated in Fig. 7) routines to be running in temporal overlap, since one may still be running when another is triggered by a further request. Similarly, a request may trigger the execution of the routine of Fig. 7 just prior to the end of a time window (a situation also illustrated in Fig. 7, with steps which occur at the end 720 of a time window/the beginning 702 of a subsequent time window being shown in dashed lines), so that the execution of the routine may overlap temporally with a part of the next time window. The approach taken by this particular embodiment to this issue of overlap is relatively simple: if at the commencement of time window $T_{n+1}$, the update of the dispatch record for a previous time window $T_n$ has been completed during the simultaneous running of a VPMS routine commenced in the previous time window $T_n$, but prior to execution the step 712 (adding a request to the virtual buffer) for that routine, the subsequent update of the virtual buffer in that step 712 will be treated as if performed for a request received in the current time window $T_{n+1}$. This approach has the benefit of being simple, although it may on occasions yield minor inaccuracies, with a request being recorded as being outside of the policy simply because processing of the request received and initially processed during one time window extended into the next time window, but this is not significant overall.